

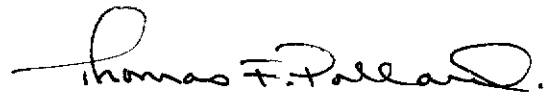
March 7, 2005

Executive Director Scott Wiseman
Illinois Commerce Commission
527 East Capitol Avenue,
Springfield, IL. 62701

I am writing this letter as a Representative of Kropp Forge Company, located at 5301 W. Roosevelt Road Cicero, Illinois 60804. My name is Thomas Pollard and I am currently the president of this more that 100 year old company that has always operated in Cicero, Illinois, Kropp Forge currently employs 90 people (past employment levels exceeded 700 employees) and is trying to regrow its business, in 2001 there were only 74 employees at Kropp Forge so you can see we have increased by 20% in the last 4 years. Kropp Forge uses approximately 4,000,000 Therms of Gas each year to manufacture the steel forgings we supply primarily to the Aircraft Industry both Military and Commercial. My concern at this point in time is the ever growing "Unfriendly Business Climate in Illinois" such as the current proposals by NICOR to hike their current rates, transportation charges and changing their rules again on customers "Storage Rules".

I have been an employee of Kropp Forge for over 35 years and in the past I always felt organizations such as the Illinois Commerce Commission and groups such as C.U.B. were looking out to protect and promote a healthy business climate in Illinois, I am urging you strongly to deny NICOR these requests rate and rule changes they have proposed as they continue to discourage business investment in people and equipment in Illinois. Give small businesses and people a chance to survive and grow in Illinois, don't convince corporations to pull their operating units out of Illinois and relocate to a "Business Friendly State". Just Say No to NICOR Rate Case Docket No. 04-0779, I implore you for the good of Kropp's 90 Employees, I want to add employees not layoff due to unnecessary rate and rule changes.

Sincerely



Thomas F. Pollard
President Kropp Forge



5301 West Roosevelt Road
Cicero, Illinois 60804

Telephone (708) 652-6691
Fax (708) 652-6696

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Chairman Edward C. Hurley
Illinois Commerce Commission
527 East Capitol Avenue,
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Commissioner Kevin K. Wright
Illinois Commerce Commission
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Commissioner Erin M. O'Connell-Diaz
Illinois Commerce Commission
527 East Capitol Avenue,
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Commissioner Robert F. Lieberman
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Commissioner Lula M. Ford
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